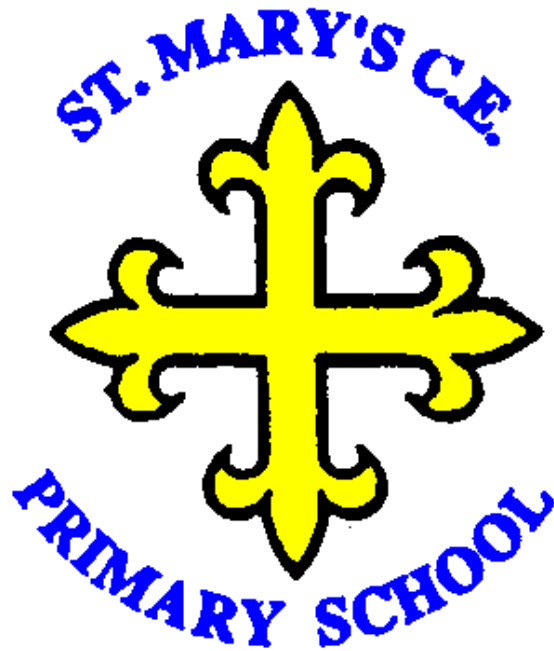


St Mary's C.E. Primary School



Worship Policy

Policy for Worship

With God All Things are Possible (Matthew 19:23)

St. Mary's CE Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled School and adheres to the Stockport L.E.A. agreed syllabus for Religious Education. The denomination of St. Mary's is Church of England and the place of worship connected to the life of the school is St. Mary's Parish Church, South Reddish, Stockport, where the rector is TBC.

Trust deeds - The school is in possession of a copy of the Land Registry Certificate which is held at Church House, Manchester. The trust deeds held at Church House are available if requested.

Acts of Worship at St. Mary's CE Primary School reflect the ethos that is stated in the school's Mission Statement which celebrates and explores the core values important to our school. We have a strong link with St. Mary's Church and the services of the Clergy and the Church are always available as a valuable resource to the school.

The quality of the worship offered in St Mary's CE Primary School, as a Church School shows that attention is paid to the distinctive Christian ethos of the school plus careful planning and delivery of the R.E. curriculum. In our school the Christian context and focus of worship is directed at the worship we offer to God, through Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. The legal basis of Church Schools, the Trust Deed, require the school to ensure that everything it does lies within the framework of the faith and practice of the Church of England. In our Spiritual, moral, social and cultural policy we also state that it is important to celebrate different faiths and beliefs. It is the school's responsibility that pupils explore and experience beliefs and practices from other religions.

It is important that we have an expectation of learning outcomes of all pupils and through the act of worship we would wish for them to:

- 1. Experience celebrations, festivals and rituals seeing their significance within religion.*
- 2. Become familiar with religious stories, symbols and ceremonies.*
- 3. Explore the lives of sacred people - their actions and values and how these affect their daily lives e.g. the importance of prayer and worship.*
- 4. To have an introduction to the phenomena of religions e.g. the importance of sacred writings, places of worship and customs.*

Worship should be **EDUCATIONAL**. Pupils both learn through and about collective worship. It is important that the act of collective worship places neither the presenter nor recipient in a less than honest situation.

Worship should be **CURRICULAR**. The act of collective worship should be an intentional learning experience which is part of a planned programme, carefully prepared, presented, evaluated and resourced.

Worship should contribute to the R.E. of pupils, but cannot replace it.

Worship should and does have a sense of occasion at St.Mary's CE Primary School. It is organised in such a way that the pupils realise it is special and different from other aspects of their school day.

The use of prayer

Prayer in our school is an important part of the day. We offer prayer through silent reflection where we "think about" everyday experiences or through response where our feelings are expressed through the spoken word. At St. Mary's we also encourage children to express their feelings or take time out to be "still" and reflect. The children know and use the traditional Anglican Lord's Prayer and the school prayer in their reflective work prayer times.

Acts of worship are delivered at St. Mary's through an organised timetable allowing for a variety of experiences through worship,-

Daily Acts of Worship

Whole school worship

Worship led by St Mary's Church Clergy and clergy from other churches

Class Based Worship and Reflection

Celebration Assembly - where Christian values and children's work is celebrated

Sharing Assemblies and acts of worship when parents are invited

Acts of worship are Christian Values based set out by the Worship and RE Subject Leaders.

Withdrawal of pupils from collective worship

The main aim of collective worship at St. Mary's C.E. Primary School is for it to be meaningful and relevant for all pupils and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. It is therefore hoped that few parents will feel that they have to remove their child from collective worship as this breaks down the unity of the school.

Parents do, however, have the right to remove their child. As a school, we pride ourselves on good communication with parents and actively encourage dialogue concerning collective worship so that misunderstanding and confusion as to its nature can be avoided.

The Headteacher is not responsible for providing alternative worship, but by agreement with the Headteacher, parents/grandparent of the children may come into school to carry out instruction in their beliefs.

Conclusion:

Collective Worship at St. Mary's CE Primary School complies with all recent requirements and is in keeping with the Stockport guidelines for Religious Education. We offer pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs, consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence. Appreciating the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them is also a vital aspect of the work we do with our children. At St. Mary's CE Primary School collective worship offers the opportunity to interpret and put into practice the values of the school. It provides a time to celebrate achievement and worthwhile or positive behaviour. It helps build up the common life of our school.

Date: January 2023
Chair of Governors: Yvonne Guariento

Review Date: January 2025
Head Teacher: Deborah Faryniarz